

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message includes a priority specifier specifying a priority of the message.
10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message includes a signature for verifying the contents of the message.
11. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message is encrypted.
12. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message is repetitively broadcast at a predetermined cycle rate.
17. (Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein the message includes at least one operator defining how a plurality of said identifiers are to be combined, the receiver/decoder applying said at least one operator to said plurality of identifiers to determine whether the user is in the group of users.
18. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, comprising generating a signal for advising the user of receipt of the message by the receiver/decoder.
19. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the signal representative of the text portion is output in response to a request from the user.
20. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the signal representative of the text portion is output automatically by the receiver/decoder.
25. (Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein each identifier is an identifier of a group having a particular characteristic.

27. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 23, comprising means for including in said message at least one operator defining how a plurality of said identifiers are to be combined.
28. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising means for including in said message a type identifier identifying that the message is intended for a group of users only.
29. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising means for including in said message a type specifier specifying that the message is of a type which includes a text portion.
30. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising means for including in said message a priority specifier for specifying a priority of the message.
31. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising means for generating a signature for verifying the contents of the message.
32. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising means for encrypting the message.
33. (Amended) Apparatus for broadcasting a message, said message comprising a text portion to be communicated to a user, said apparatus comprising means for generating said message in the form of an entitlement management message, and means for broadcasting said entitlement management message to a user's receiver/decoder.
39. (Amended) A receiver/decoder according to claim 36, wherein the message includes at least one operator defining how a plurality of said identifiers are to be combined, the receiver/decoder comprising means for applying said at least one operator to said plurality of identifiers to determine whether the user is in the group of users.

40. (Amended) A receiver/decoder according to claim 35, comprising means for generating a signal for advising the user of receipt of the message by the receiver/decoder.
41. (Amended) A receiver/decoder according to claim 35, comprising means for receiving a request from the user for output of the signal representative of the text portion.
42. (Amended) A receiver/decoder according to claim 35, wherein the output means is adapted to output automatically the signal representative of the text portion.
48. (Amended) A message according to claim 45, including at least one operator defining how a plurality of said identifiers are to be combined.
49. (Amended) A message according to claim 44, including a type identifier identifying that the message is intended for a group of users only.
50. (Amended) A message according to claim 44, including a type specifier specifying that the message is of a type which includes a text portion.
51. (Amended) A message according to claim 44, including a priority specifier for specifying a priority of the message.
52. (Amended) A message according to claim 44, including a signature for verifying the contents of the message.
53. (Amended) A signal comprising an entitlement management message, the entitlement management message comprising a text portion for communication to a user.

Please cancel claims 54-58.